

Tonasket School District #404
“Focused on Learning, Linking Learning to Life”

School Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 23, 2021
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
In the Elementary School Commons

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Sharron Cox called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. with Ernesto Cerrillo, Lois Rhoads, Joyce Fancher, and Jennie Wilson in attendance. Superintendent Steve McCullough and secretary Janet Glanzer were present. Administrators attending remotely were Kelwy El-Haj, Lilly Martin, Tara Deebach, Trisha Roach, and Kristi Krieg. Also in attendance at the meeting were Teunis Rietveld, Kristi Rothrock, Kristi and Rich Hutchins, Beth Unser, Amanda Brown, Stuart and Sonia Ross, Chris Coombs, Brian Wahl, and others.

Joining the meeting remotely were Bobbi Catone, Evelyn Smith, Donna Zabreznik, Chris Lorz, and Ashley Fardys, Darwin Smith, Flor Maldonado, Heather Dalzell, Jacqueline Penner, Jen Desjardins, Katie Walker, Lindsay Thrasher, Melissa Morgan, Nadine Olma, Rachel Miketa Lacey, Rosemary Stevens, Sarah Richey, Jordan Bradley, and others.

FLAG SALUTE

Board Chair Sharron Cox led the flag salute at 7:05 p.m.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA - None

HEARING OF INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS

Three individuals shared their thoughts and opinions regarding the mandates from the state to face mask in the school and requiring staff vaccinations. Concerns were voiced regarding the broach of citizens’ rights, government officials making unlawful decisions especially regarding the withholding of school funding. Other comments where made about safety and school leaders encouraging staff to be vaccinated.

Steve McCullough invited anyone in the community, along with staff and students, to join with him for the *Supt’s On* virtual meeting tomorrow night. Topics will be discussed regarding vaccination and masking and reasoning why schools are making the decisions they are. An invitation was extended to anyone in the community to join the virtual discussion, along with staff and students. Mr. McCullough remarked that this is a good way to have a more in-depth conversation.

CONSENT AGENDA

Board Action: Joyce Fancher moved to approve items A – F on the consent agenda with the exception of G for more discussion. Jennie Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Steve McCullough provided information on the Pacific Mobile Structures Change Order. The site preparation was not included in the cost so this is an additional cost the board needs to approve for the ES modular.

Board Action: Ernesto Cerrillo moved to approve item G on the consent agenda. Lois Rhodes seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

REPORTS

Financial

Bobbi Catone reviewed the monthly financial reports.

Superintendent

Steve McCullough commented that he has been spending a lot of time managing the masking and mandated vaccination of school employees. The community is split, as well as the staff, in their opinions. The best possible learning environment is going forward. Beginning of the year staff training and meetings have been held. The all staff meeting on Wednesday will be held outside. Mr. McCullough met with the architect to decide on colors for the outside of the CTE shop. Critical Race Theory is another hot topic right now. We do not teach CRT. Mr. McCullough provided a staffing update, commenting that we are short-staffed and are having a difficult time filling all our positions.

NEW BUSINESS

Policy Exemption

Steve McCullough provided information on the reasoning behind the request for the policy exemption for a board member to substitute in HS math for three months.

Board Action: Lois Rhodes moved to approve the policy exemption to Policy 1610 for Joyce Fancher to substitute for three months. Jennie Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

2021-22 Board Calendar

Board Action: Joyce Fancher moved to approve the 2021-22 board calendar as presented. Jennie Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Change in Board Meeting Time

The board discussed changing the board meeting time.

Board Action: Lois Rhoads moved to amend Policy 1400 to change board meetings start time to 6:30 p.m. Ernesto Cerrillo seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Letter to the Governor on Masking and Local Control

Steve McCullough commented that local school districts have sent a similar letter to Governor Inslee regarding the masking mandate. The options for the board are to write a letter and send it or to not to send a letter. The basic tenet of the letter is to give local control for masking decisions. It was discussed be to put a notice out to the staff and community for letters and input for the board to review and draft a letter based off of the letters. The board will review the information at the September work session.

School Garden Coordinator

Steve McCullough remarked that the district has had a school garden for a number of years. There is more push for outdoor education. The garden is underutilized because there isn't anyone on staff to manage it; it's all volunteers. We have ESSER funds for the next two or three years to put toward a coordinator position, then look at grant funding it after that.

Board Action: Joyce Fancher moved to approve the school garden coordinator position for two hours a day. Jennie Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

POLICY UPDATES

First Reading Policies

Board Action: Joyce Fancher moved to approve the first reading of Policies 1822, 2108, 2420, 3231, 3520, and 5515. Jennie Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

MISCELLANEOUS

2022 Enrichment & Operations Levy

Steve McCullough commented that this is a levy year and work will start on it.

Minutes

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Washington State Governor's Staff Vaccine Mandate

Steve McCullough provided information on mandate that came out last week and how he's managing it in the district.

EXECUTIVE/CLOSED SESSION

The board moved into executive session at 8:30 for 10 minutes for the purpose of negotiations.

The board moved out of executive session at 8:40 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Sharron Cox adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.



Janet Glanzer

Assistant Secretary

The minutes of the August 23, 2021 regular board meeting (2 pages) were approved at the September 29, 2021 board meeting.


Secretary to the Board
Chair of the Board